

# THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

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F.B.I.S.,  
2430 E Street, NW,  
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7th February 1955

Dear Alan,

In my letter of 21st January I mentioned that it seemed inevitable that retrenchment would be forced upon us next year but at that stage I was not in a position to give you any detail. The situation has now become clearer after prolonged discussions with the Treasury and the Government departments here whom we serve, including the Foreign Office, and I am extremely sorry to say that we are forced to make serious reductions in our coverage for next year. These reductions have already been sent to you on the wire by Roland but I now enclose a copy for your use.

While there is no doubt that the reduction in coverage is substantial, we feel here that the material loss may not be in the same proportion as we have tried to reduce in directions which we have found in the past to be least productive, and I only hope you may feel likewise although I know you will feel these cuts to be severe.

The reduced coverage has been accepted by our own Government and indeed it is felt that further reductions could be accepted, particularly as regards the monitoring of Western Europe and Moscow and Satellites in languages other than their own. Discussions are still proceeding on a longer term view of our operations and there is no doubt that pressure will be put upon us to reduce further along these lines.

I am fully conscious of our obligations to you in the way of giving as long warning as possible of changes in our coverage, but in this situation we are faced with an arbitrary cut in our revenue grant, and in order not to have to cut deeper than is necessary it is essential that we should make as swift progress as possible towards staff reductions, and I would be very grateful if you could let me know as soon as possible which of these cuts you regard as of least importance, to enable us to reduce in these directions first of all.

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I think the list speaks for itself but I would point out that the large reduction in Rumanian coverage includes the take-over of the Rumanian Home Service by your station at Karavas which has already been agreed between us and is only awaiting implementation for the recruitment of the necessary monitor.

I go into a further meeting with the Government departments on 16th February and it would be most helpful to me if you could give me some indication by then of your reactions to these reductions as well as an indication of your priorities in the monitoring which we do. I am aware, of course, of your needs and the uses to which you put the products of monitoring in general, but if we were faced with the necessity of making further cuts would you for instance be more ready to accept a reduced coverage from Western Europe, or would you prefer this to be retained at the expense of, say, foreign language broadcasts from the Satellites. Your interests are appreciated and understood here and I shall certainly do my best to ensure that no further decisions on coverage reductions are taken until I have had an opportunity of meeting you and discussing the matter next month.

In parallel with this I am looking carefully into our requirements from you at this end to see whether we are able to lessen the burden on you in this direction, but we have already done our best to ensure that we are not asking from you any unnecessary material and we are always conscious of the necessity to keep this constantly under review.

I understand that Patrick Dean is writing briefly to your Director following up the previous correspondence they have had and informing him of the present situation.

Yours sincerely,



J.T. Campbell